GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES AND MINERALS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5301
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2000
DAMODAR RIVER RAIL DIVERSION PROJECT
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of the Damodar River RailDiversion Project under Central Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the initially estimated cost of the Damodar River Rail Diversion Project has been increased;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to complete this project within the fixed time bound plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND MINERALS

(SMT. RITA VERMA)

(a) to (f) : The mines in Bokaro - Kargali area of Central Coalfields Limited were being worked for extraction of medium coking coal for supply to steel plants. The dip-side (South) boundary of the Bokaro opencast mine was, however, limited by the Eastern Railway`s Barkakana-Gomoh main line and further south by the Damodar River. In order to sustain coal production to meet the requirement of washed coal to steel plants, the diversion of railway line and Damodar river was contemplated.

A Committee of Experts was set up by the Govt. of India, Department of Coal in October,1975 to make a preliminary study of the different alternatives of winning the medium coking coal locked up beneath the railway line and the Damodar river. The Committee submitted its report in Oct., 1976, recommending diversion of the river as well as the railway line. The latter was to be diverted first.

A scheme for diversion of railway line between Jarangdih and Phusro railway stations of EasternRailway in Bokaro-Kargali area of CCL was sanctioned by the Govt., Department of Coal in February,1982 at a capital cost of Rs.15.93 crores. The diversion work was being executed by the Eastern Railway on "deposit work" basis. As per the sanction, the diversion work was scheduled to be completed b y March,1985. The commencement o f the work, however, got delayed owing to delay in acquisition of land and associated rehabilitation problems. The cost estimates of the above Jarangdih-Phusro rail diversion project were revised to Rs.48.78 crores in March,1991 by Coal India Limited under their delegated powers. This project i s anticipated to be completed by December,2000 against the scheduled date of completion i.e. June,1997. This project is being monitored by the Govt. on quarterly basis.

Meanwhile, action for diversion of Damodar river was also being taken up. Project Report for Damodarriver diversion has not yet been sanctioned. However, an Advance Action proposal for this project i s already sanctioned and the same is anticipated to be completed by March,2001.